Prof Fitch

HAMILTON LIFE.

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College.

VOL. XIV. CLINTON, N. Y., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1911. No. 10.

LARGER AND BETTER HAMILTON

Wide Scope Allowed in Subjects Required for Entrance—Latin and Greek Not Both Required for A. B. Degree—Group System of Electives—Further Possible Changes Contemplated but Not Yet Announced.

How many Hamilton men knew that a special committee of Alumni and educational experts had been authorized by the Trustees last June to consider changes in our curriculum and entrance requirements? Life confesses that the first inkling of such action came in the Sunday issue of the New York Sun. According to the account, this committee was appointed by Senator Root and was firs formally assembled Saturday, after a preliminary discussion by some of its members during the preceding four or five days.

Senator Root is quoted as follows:

"The change and progress brought about in the course of the development of education in this country make it necessary for loyal Alumni of our College to survey the whole field of education with a view to the development or rearrangemnet of the curriculum and entrance requirements of our own College in order to secure a more perfect working adjustment there.

"At a meeting of the Trustees last June the suggestion in regard to this commission was made by the committee on instruction and government, and the men who were appointed to it were selected with the approval of President Stryker.

"There was no idea in this movement on the part of the Trustees that an attempt should be made to change the College into a vocational institution. It must always be an institution for training men along broad general lines. The undertaking is a burdensome but useful service and on behalf of the Trustees I wish to thank the commission for undertaking it."

George P. Bristol, professor of Greek and director of the school of education at Cornell University, who had charge of the meeting, said afterward that while the "Amherst plan" of a modified classical course, which was suggested in a memorial to the trustees of Amherst College by the class of '85, was referred to the commission continually throughout th discussion yesterday, yet the Hamilton Commission had no intention of copying any college in this matter.

"Our final plan will probably be even less conservative than the Amherst idea," he said.

The following resoultions were adopted as expressing the general attitude of the Commission:

I. It is the sense of the Committee that a wider scope should be allowed in the choice of subjects offered for admission to the College.

II. That Greek and Latin should not both be required for admission to the A. B. course.

III. That the study of certain groups of important subjects should be begun earlier in the college course than at present and that the studies elected should be so grouped as to secure the greatest continuity of study compatible with reasonable liberty of choice.

In explaining the first clause Prof. Bristol said that now only Greek, Lat in, mathematics and English can be offered for admission. Under the new plan history and science would be included in the list of possible sub jects. The second clause means, he said, that a student may offer Greek alone for entrance, something, which is done more generally in Western colleges than in those of the East. The final clause refers to a group system in which the pursuance of ma jor and minor subjects will be required.

The Commission will carry on its work during the winter by correspondence and through subcommittes and will report to the Trustees at the centennial celebration of the College next June.

The members of the Commission are: Prof. George P. Bristol, '76, chairman; Prof. E. L. Stevens, '90, vice-chairman; Prof. Theodore F. Collier, '94, secretary; Prof. A. S. Hoyt, '72, Calvin N. Kendall, '82, Carlos H. Stone, '78, Charles B. Cole, '58, Prof. James D. Rogers, '89, Prin. A. C. McLachlan, '81, Prof. H. C. G. Brandt, '72, Prin. Edward N. Jones, '83, Edward B. Parsons, '84, Prof. George Lawyer, '85, John McCollum Curran, '92, and Albert W. Boesche, '97.

CHANGE IN COMMONS.

Present Steward to Resign at Close of Fiscal Year. Student Management Possible.

John C. Williams, who has served as steward at Commons Hall during the present college year, has announced his intention of resigning at the close of the Christmas Holidays. Ill health has hindered Mr. Williams from running Commons at its full capacity. He has been forced to close the Hall at an early evening hour and, in consequence, he has been deprived of the heavy evening mob for lunches and rarebits, the source of such lucrative gain under the old regime. The prevailing high cost of the staple products and the excessive dearth of competent assistants have strengthened his decision. Mr. Williams is confident, however, that any able-bodied individual, who is capable of undergoing the trying hours of service, could successfully manage Commons at the present rate of board, four dollars a week. The student steward system is now under consideration by the committee.

FACULTY HAS SOCIAL EVENING.

The members of the Faculty and their wives were entertained last Tuesday evening by Prof. and Mrs. Morrill at their home in Clinton. The feature of the evening was a "declaration bee" in which each person present explained his or her reason for attending the gathering. No action on the matter of the Faculty Football Team and the sudden cancelling of its schedule was taken.

HAMILTON'S ARCHITECTURE.

Carnegie and South are Models of Their Kind.

The December number of the Architectural Record contains an article by Montgomery Schuyler on "Architecture of American Colleges." The author approves highly of Hamilton's style of buildings, and uses Carnegie Hall, New South, and the Chemical Labratory as examples of modern, up-to-date college buildings. In part the article says:

"This is a college which will celebrate its centenary next year among American Institutes of learning. All readers will understand and many will sympathize with the official declaration that the Hamilton of the present and future is not to diverge very widely from its original standards and purpose, that it would far rather be known as a clean and resolute old-fashioned College than as an educational café or a country club."

In speaking of the buildings Mr. Schuyler writes:

"The chapel and one of the dormitories are still standing, and performing the function for which they were built. For half a century, indeed, they fulfilled their function so completely that they are the only noticeable or considerable buildings of the campus which were erected before the accession of the present president, under whose administration the college has been as energetic in its building as doubtless in its academic operations. One notices marked difference between the building of Hamilton and that of most other colleges, and notices it with great pleasure. The building of these last twenty years has almost all been intrusted to one neighboring architect, no further off than Utica. A single architect has not that temptation to compete with himself and to signalize his work by difference rather than to merge it in the ensemble by conformity, which seems irresistible to the ordinary American practitioner when he supervenes upon a campus occupied by the works of other architects.

Such a building as Carnegie Hall would disarm criticism by its unpretentious answering of its practical purpose. It has nothing of the superfluous.

The New South Dormitory, a year later in date, is architecturally, more developed, and developed in the form of an historical style, Tudor Gothic, namely. Doubtless it gains by the developement, but it by no means puts to shame the simpler erection.

A building that distinctly belongs to the Campus is the Chemical Laboratory to which no designer's name is attached. One suspects the president of being in this case his own architect."

The article continues, discussing the various buildings on the Hill. Among the illustrations are pictures of Carnegie Hall, South, Science, Chemical Laboratory, Alpha Delta Phi and Sigma Phi chapter houses.

The architect mentioned as being the designer of the buildings erected in the last twenty years is F. H. Gouge, '70.

THE TERM "VARSITY."

Careless Use of the Word Has Given It a Wrong Connotation.

"Can't something be done to bring the boys to understand that the constant use of the word "Varsity" in connection with their sports and pastimes smacks of shoddy imitation and mimicry?

"Hamilton is not a "Varsity"—it never has been and it is our hope and belief that it never will be. The Football Team is a College team; the Glee Club is a College Club."

The above communication was received a short time ago from one of our younger Trustees. While such terms as "shoddy imitation and mimicry" seem a trifle strong to characterize what is better called mere thoughtlessness, the suggestion that the word "Varsity" be given up is very pertinent. Hamilton is a College and its organizations should be called College organizations. Life will do so, hereafter.

—To the right of the Chapel platform, just above the seats reserved for the Faculty, there has been placed a beautiful metal tablet to the memory of Oren Root, '56.

—The standing in the Life competition is: King, McNair, Hudson, Buchanan, Johnson, Kimball, Lee, White, Ritch, Miller, Clark.

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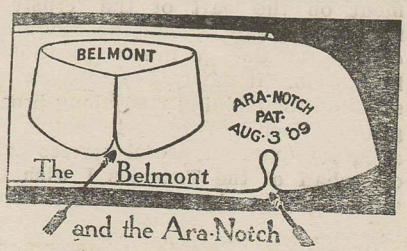

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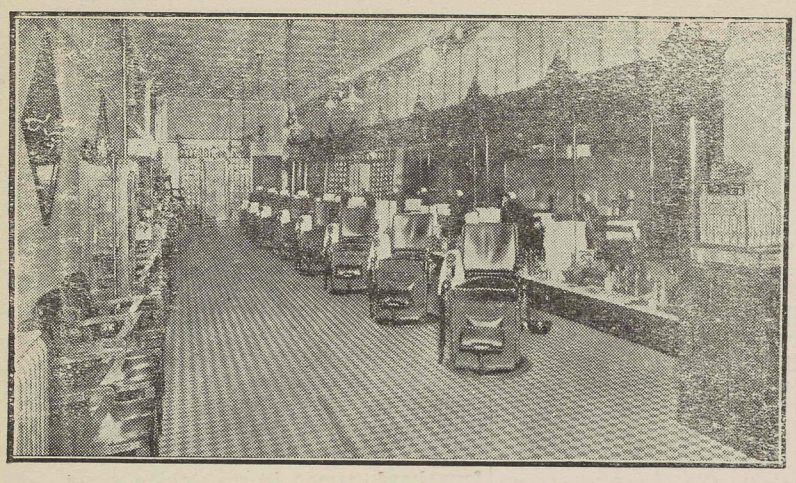

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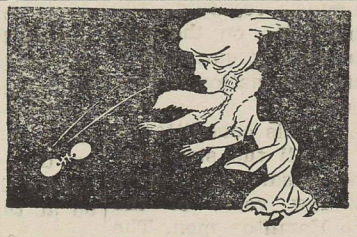

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EDITORIAL.

Owing to the late hour at which we received the news regarding the plans of the committee on the curriculum and entrance requirements, no more complete information can be given in this issue.

The formation of this committee is the culmination of all the strenuous and often, indeed, misdirected efforts during the past few years of the more progressive Hamilton men. The decisions of this committee will be epoch-making in the life of the College and will, therefore, be eagerly awaited by all loyal Hamilton men.

* * *

Tentative Football Schedule.

In conference with several Alumni who have actively identified themselves with Alumni coaching, Assistant Manager Wenigmann has decided upon the following schedule for next Fall:

Sept. 28, Alfred, at Clinton.
Oct. 5, Clarkson, at Clinton.
Oct. 12, Rutgers (or Stevens), at New York.
Oct. 19, Middlebury, at Clinton.
Oct. 26, Hobart, at Geneva.
Nov. 2, Rochester, at Clinton.
Nov. 9, St. Lawrence, at Clinton.
Nov. 16, Union, at Schenectady.

Of course, it is possible that Wenigmann will not be able to carry out his plans, but, if he can approximately do so, the schedule will be one of the finest we have had in recent years.

Football players and, in particular, the coaches know, sometimes to their cost, how greatly the schedule affects the development of a team. A crushing or even an unexpected defeat early in the season exerts a depressing influence on the players throughout the season. Recognizing the baneful effects of such defeats, the Faculty wisely forbade the Manager to schedule games with Cornell, Syracuse or with any vastly superior team. Moreover, even though unconsciously, a coach tries to win every game. To do this he often fails to pay due attention to grounding the players well in the fundamentals in the early part of the season, but at too rapid a rate drills them in an elaborate offense, in order that, knowing well that the team will be defeated, he may enable it at least to score. The effects of this premature development are very pernicious, for the really important games are played with too little drill in the so very necessary rudiments having been given in the so very necessary rudiments.

A schedule should be so planned that the coach can spend the first two or three weeks in drill on the rudiments of offense and defense, giving the team only enough formations and plans to win the first two games rather easily. Thus the team will be built up from a solid foundation and will be in a constant state of development, thus avoiding the well dreaded mid-season slump. Complicated formations can be doled out as the coach finds his squad can handle them so that the team should be at the height of its power a full week before the final game, thus allowing a week's rest with attention concentrated upon polishing up the rough spots in the team's playing.

Then, too, while trips have little effect upon a baseball team, seldom does a football team perform so well away as at home. The trips should be so placed on the schedule, therefore, that a minimum amount of harm shall result to the team. One further function of trips is to give as many Alumni as possible an opportunity to see the team play.

Assistant Manager Wenigmann's tentative schedule will fill these requirements excellently. The games with Alfred and Clarkson should prove so easy that plenty of drill in the rudiments may be given the squad. Rutgers or Stevens will give us a hard game which should disclose to the coaches the weaknesses in the Team's play so that—Middlebury being an easy game, probably—they may have two whole weeks to prepare the Team for the four hard, important games of our schedule, on the outcome of which the success of our season depends. To some, four hard games in succession seem to impose too heavy a task; but it is far better to have these games at the end of the schedule when we have the best chance of winning than too early as was the case of the Hobart game this year. Once the Team starts its hard games, there is less likelihood of a slump occurring through overconfidence or any other cause if all the succeeding games call forth the best efforts of the players. The possibility of injury cannot be reckoned on in planning a schedule.

Games near New York, at Schenectady and at Geneva permit a large number of our Alumni to see the Team. By the way, a game near New York should be scheduled every year for the benefit of the metropolitan Alumni.

The alternation of home games and trips with the two games preceding the Union trip played on the Hill is a noticeable improvement over last Fall's schedule.

With a reasonable break in luck, Hamilton should win every game next Fall.

LIBRARY NOTES.

Realizing the fact that a number of the men in College are undoubtedly interested in various activities of work which are not exhaustively treated by the books in the Library, Prof. Ibbotson announces that there is a sum of money available for expenditure in such cases.

It is desired that any student requiring the use of a book not to be found in the Library hand to Prof. Ibbotson a slip containing the name of the book, its author and publisher and, if possible, the date of its publication. When practicable such volume will be purchased.

Rocks: "Mason, where are the Jura Mountains?"

Mason, with a cunning leer: That's just what I was going to ask you."

ALUMNI COACHING.

Williams, '08, Believes the Past Seasons Record Merits its Maintenance.

With your permission, a word about graduate coaching. I was somewhat surprised at the editorial in Life for I had supposed that college and alumni sentiment favors the present system so emphatically that no change is contemplated. If such be the case, the 1911 season is a splendid argument against a change. Contrary to experiences of other years, it was an improvement over the previous season and promises well for 1912.

And the alumni are satisfied. I submit that those who have seen the team play are the ones who should talk about this matter. I made it a point to ask every graduate I saw at the Union game what he thought of the team and its play. The answers were uniformly enthusiastic in their praise of the individual and teamwork of the eleven. Not in years has a Hamilton team played more sustained football. Often their work has been brilliant, to be marred by glaring faults which would counteract the good playing. This year it was uniformly good. The team did not win all its games, nor all it should. But that is the luck of football, which under these rules, is a big factor, as anyone who has followed the game, knows.

To my mind, the team was a credit to the coaching system and so, to the college. With its present enrollment, Hamilton cannot hope to play "big league" football. But it can and should always, play a hard, fast, intelligent game. Averaging the seasons since 1903, it seems to me that odds favor the graduate coaching not only in results achieved but in prospects created. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

PAUL B. WILLIAMS, '08.

This endorsement of the Alumni system of coaching should be given careful attention, for it summarizes well the work of the Team and is the expressed opinion of many Alumni whose efforts have been directed toward developing Hamilton football.

—The Senior Executive Committee met last Monday and elected the following officers: Chairman, E. C. Walker; Treasurer, L. B. Peters. The other members of the committee are Boone, Mangan, Allen, Mason, Thompson, and Erskine.

—The bowling alleys will be in charge of Watkin, '12, and Taylor, '13.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Colson, '11 addressed the Sunday afternoon Y. M. C. A. service. His talk was very logical, taking up in the first place the admitted fact that the world has great moral and social needs. The colleges furnish fifty per cent. of the world's leaders. In the hands of the college men, then, lies the destiny of the entire world. Realizing the value of the college man, it is the purpose of the Y. M. C. A. to so shape his character that, as a leader, he will lead in the right direction. The responsibility, therefore, is placed upon every Christian college student to see to it that the future leaders of the nation, his classmates, carry out of college right ideals of right action.

Twenty men have already signified their intention of attending the Student Volunteer Convention to be held at Auburn this week. It is hoped that even more will take advantage of this splendid opportunity to come in touch with one of the biggest movements of the day. Anyone can attend without using "cuts," except for Saturday.

Martin, '11, has taken charge of a group of U. F. A. students. In doing this, not only the Y. M. C. A., but the College as well, is being helped. Such work may be the means of adding several to our hoped-for increase in the number of students. Here is a field for those who are really interested in a "larger Hamilton."

OUR INJURED LAST FALL.

The following is from the Harvard Alumni Bulletin and is something for the over-populated rules committee to think about:

"The graduates should know that the game of football is once more under keen scrutiny. The injuries this season have been more serious than they have been in any other year since the rules were revised. This statement applies not only to Cambridge but also to New Haven and other places where football is played. There is no satisfactory explanation for the increase in the hospital list; it may be merely luck. At any rate the demand for some further revision of the rules which will reduce again the chance of serious injuries to the players is growing."

Whether or not we have been lucky this year, the fact remains that the squad sustained no serious injuries, as football goes. While a list of injuries including a twisted back, two dislocated knees and slightly sprained ankles may horrify fond parents, there is no occasion to deduce that the new rules have increased the likelihood to injury. Still, we may have been fortunate this year.

DR. REED PREACHED SUNDAY.

Rev. H. T. Reed, Professor of New Testament History at Auburn Theological Seminary, led the Chapel Service last Sunday afternoon in the absence of Dr. Stryker, who, with Mrs. Stryker, was visiting friends in Pittsburgh. Rev. Reed said at the outset that every man felt himself to be either a debtor or a creditor to Humanity. He then brought out that we, with our opportunities and advantages, are debtors to God and that debt we can pay back only through real gratitude. "But here the law of inheritance comes in, which makes us responsible for the welfare of our fellows, and by serving them we can best show our gratitude to God." He concluded with a short but forcible plea for the ministry as affording to men the best opportunities for real service to mankind.

THE FACULTY SONG.

At college dinners or wherever the Faculty Song is shouted, it has been very evident that but a few of the students know the immortal verses. Such a good old custom must not be lost or the effect thereof diminished by a weak chorus. Wherefore Life feels called upon to save the custom by printing the song entire:

Here's to Prexy Stryker, oh!
The man who makes the whole thing go.
He thinks he's a heller, don't you know?
Oh! Here's to Prexy Stryker.

Here's to cross and crabbed Schnitz,
The man who gives the Freshmen fits,
With Ach du Lieber, Donner and Blitz!
Preserve us from the Dutchman!

Here's to good old Baldy Wood,
The man who lives in bachelorhood.
He wouldn't get married if he could.
Oh! Here's to Baldy Woody.

To be continued.

—Professor MacHarg spent Thanksgiving in Cooperstown.

—Pentagon met last Tuesday.

—The universities of Japan and China are expecting to enter track and field teams in the Olympic games at Stockholm next year.

LOCAL DEPARTMENT

D. E. STONE, '13, Local Editor.

HILL NOTES.

—Mangan, '12, will act as chairman of the committee for the entertainment of the sub-freshmen during Inter-scholastic Week.

—Several Freshmen, who were fortunate enough to remain on the Hill over Thanksgiving, were pleasantly entertained at the home of Professor and Mrs. Hastings last Thursday evening.

—On Thanksgiving day at Watertown, N. Y., occured the death of Henry P. Cook, '78.

—The October Lit. appeared last Tuesday.

—President Stryker distributed copies of his "Baccalaureate Sermons' to the Seniors last week. The book of a hundred and fifty pages contains the Baccalaureate Sermons delivered to the graduating classes from 1893 to 1905 inclusive.

—The sophomore and junior delegations of Psi U. held an informal party at the House last Friday afternoon. Several guests from Utica were present.

PRESS CLUB CALENDAR.

The Press Club Calendar, which has been promised to the College, made its initial appearance in the Tower last week, was unanimously pronounced "better than expected," and was sent back to the publishers with a few suggestions. The proof was a little behind the schedule, but Harry will, without a doubt, be able to vend his product to Christmas shoppers before the general exodus.

Taken as a whole the calendar is an excellent scheme, and will serve a double purpose; namely, of getting the views of the College in many homes where there may be possible sub-freshmen, and also of solving the problem of this season's Christmas gifts. It is the intention of the Club to sell as many of the Calendars as possible, and then to send them to various places where they can "talk" for Hamilton.

Pictorially the Calendar is a great success. The cuts are exceptionally good and include almost every angle of the Campus. The cover is of a very rich, dark buff leather, embossed with a view of Root Hall and the College seal. There are six pages and eleven cuts.

The candidates for the Club are now canvassing the College and slips are being sent to the Alumni through Life and Lit. It is hoped that it will be necessary to get out a second edition.

Alumni who desire copies of the Press Association Calendar will send the enclosed subscription blank with a dollar to W. J. DuBordieu, Treasurer Press Association, Clinton, N. Y.

INNOVATION FOR N. Y. ALUMNI.

Double Quartette from College Choir to Favor Them with Selections at Banquet.

When kindred folk assemble—those of common interest and of the common mother—then harmony and good fellowship prevail and naught permeates the environs to sordidly jar the existing bliss. Hamilton New York Alumni, in banquet session annually assembled, have ever given themselves over to the happy abandon of the moment. Eminent graduates have given long dissertations on weighty subjects before them and they've never flinched. Never! Taxes have been imposed to reimburse the waning resources back on the Hill, and they've never murmured. They've never rebelled. Never! Now Centennial Year approaches. On January eleventh the New York Alumni will assemble for the last gathering as representatives of the infant Hamilton. What with Caruso's solos and the vaudeville team from the Colonial to entertain them it would seem difficult to eclipse last year's lavish program.

So thought the entertainment committee. They left it to Prex. Peculiarly reminiscent of the college joys would be young, virile men of the present generation. And far more convenable for Centennial Year would be local enthusiasm and local pride, symbolized in typically representative undergraduates at that banquet. Caruso's presence would be irrelevant. Even fair Mary Garden, tawdry in her garb of nothingness and smiles, wouldn't suit the occasion, essentially different from former years.

Picture the innovation: The entrée is over. The buff and blue beefsteak has been served by waiters, donned in College sweaters. The Alumni, radiantly complacent, are nestling back in the chairs for the toasts, when the big door at the rear of the banquet hall swings open and eight handsome figures, clad in "Ted" Martin's new style gymsuits and lead by "Dri" Thompson, prance in, swinging wreaths of leaves plucked from the college trees, and singing in monotone, with constant reiteration, Harry Dounce's immortal lyric, "We come with crowns of laurel." These eight are to be, "Dri," Chas. Thompson, Callahan, Gould, Kultchar, Hallock, West and Walker, the double quartette of the inimitable college choir. After an introductory "alumni glide" close in resemblance to the tabooed "Hootchy Kootch" by Callahan and West, the men will form a circle and, with arms around the neighbor's neck in true collegiate style, will sing the one hundred and forty-seven hymns in the College Hymnal. You know them—those alliterative rhapsodies, flaunted each morning at 8:35 to the unresponsive visitors in the gallery. Then will follow the grand finale by the entire discordant eight. "Brick" Blake, quoting Shakespeare, said to a Life reporter: "It is to laugh." He's right.

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